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Amendments to the Drawings

The replacement sheets of drawings attached hereto as **Exhibit A** include changes to, and replace, Figures 5 and 14 of the original sheets of drawings.

The term "ROUTE" in Figures 5 and 14 is an obvious typographical error and has been replaced by "ROOT".

Attachment: replacement sheets of drawings for Figures 5 and 14

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REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 1, 2008. Claims 1-16 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10, 13 and 14 have been amended to clarify the claimed subject matter. Accordingly, claims 1-16 are presented for reconsideration, with claims 1, 7, 13 and 14 being in independent form.

The drawings were objected to as having informalities.

The replacement sheets of drawings attached hereto as **Exhibit A** include changes to, and replace, Figures 5 and 14 of the original sheets of drawings. Figures 5 and 14 have been amended to correct the typographical error referenced in the Office Action.

Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite.

In response, the claims have been carefully reviewed and amended with particular attention to the points raised in the Office Action.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is requested.

Claims 1-12 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as purportedly directed to non- patentable subject matter.

Applicant traverses the rejection.

Each of independent claims 1 and 7 of the present application is directed to an apparatus, and claim 14 is directed to a system including a plurality of such apparatuses, and therefore each of independent claims 1, 7 and 14 of the present application falls into a well-established (by the ample U.S. Supreme Court case law) category of patentable subject matter (that is, machine).

Further, the claim elements of claims 1, 7 and 14 perform actions (for example, "transmits", "sets", "retrieves", etc) that descriptive material simply cannot perform.

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Withdraw of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is requested.

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Kayashima (US 2003/0055939 A1) in view of Henderson (US 2006/0101071 A1).

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 14 of the present application are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

This application relates to an improved approach, in a network environment, for making setting information that is current and relevant available to any of plural network terminal apparatuses. In an aspect of the present application, one of the network terminal apparatus is configured to transmit a command requesting setting information to one of the other network terminal apparatuses, receive the setting information from the one of the other network terminal apparatuses in response to the command, set itself (that is, the network terminal apparatus) in accordance with the received setting information, and store the received setting information in its memory. In addition, the network terminal apparatus is configured to retrieve the setting information from the memory, in response to receipt of an acquisition request from another one of the other network terminal apparatuses requesting the setting information stored in the memory, and transmit the retrieved setting information to said another one of the other network terminal apparatuses in response to the acquisition request. Such aspect of the present application, as well as other features, is present in each of independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 14 of the present application.

The cited art does not disclose or suggest such aspect of the present application.

Kayashima, as understood by Applicant, proposes a client-server system wherein an integrated management server (102) provides security management service to a plurality of target

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servers (103-1 through 103-3). A plurality of setting information templates (2031) are stored in a storage device of the integrated management server 102, and each template can be utilized to generate one or more setting information files (2032), such as after editing by a user operating an edit program (2043) on the integrated management server computer 102. The user, such as a network manager, initiates a process to generate the setting information file 2032, such as by using the edit program on the integrated management server computer 102, and then transmits the setting information file 2032 to each relevant target server.

However, the system proposed by Kayashima does not include a network terminal apparatus that is configured to *transmit a command requesting setting information* to one of the other network terminal apparatuses, receive the setting information from the one of the other network terminal apparatuses in response to the command, *set itself (that is, the network terminal apparatus)* in accordance with the received setting information, and store the received setting information in its memory such that the network terminal apparatus can later retrieve the setting information from the memory, in response to receipt of an acquisition request from another network terminal apparatus requesting the setting information stored in the memory, and transmit the retrieved setting information to said another network terminal apparatus in response to the acquisition request.

It should be noted that neither the integrated management server 102 nor any of the target servers 103 of Kayashima performs such operations.

Henderson was merely cited as purported evidence that it was known to configure a client to do the same thing as a server.

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However, Henderson, like Kayashima, does not teach or suggest the above-mentioned aspect of the present application for enabling each of a plurality of network terminal apparatuses to obtain and set itself with setting information that is current and relevant.

Applicant submits that the cited art, even when considered along with common sense and common knowledge to one skilled in the art, simply does **NOT** render unpatentable such aspect of the present application wherein a network terminal apparatus is configured to **transmit a command requesting setting information** to one of the other network terminal apparatuses, receive the setting information from the one of the other network terminal apparatuses in response to the command, **set itself (that is, the network terminal apparatus)** in accordance with the received setting information, and store the received setting information in its memory such that the network terminal apparatus can later retrieve the setting information from the memory, in response to receipt of an acquisition request from another network terminal apparatus requesting the setting information stored in the memory, and transmit the retrieved setting information to said another network terminal apparatus in response to the acquisition request..

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 14 of the present application, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited art.

In view of the remarks hereinabove, applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any required fees in connection with this amendment, and to credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner

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is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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EXHIBIT A

to
AMENDMENT
(Serial No. 10/824,145)